

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 3 to 20 are all the claims pending in the application, prior to the present Amendment.

The Examiner states that claims 9-17 were withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected method. The Examiner states that the status identifiers for these claims must be changed to read “(Withdrawn)” in response to this action in order to be considered responsive.

In response, applicants have amended the status identifier for claims 9 and 12-17 to indicate that these claims are withdrawn. Claims 10 and 11 have been canceled.

The Examiner has indicated that claim 20 contains allowable subject matter. Accordingly, applicants have amended claim 1 to include the allowable subject matter of claim 20 and have canceled claim 20. All of the remaining claims that are under examination depend from claim 1. In view of the amendment to claim 1, applicants submit that all of the remaining rejections have been overcome and, therefore, request their withdrawal.

Further, applicants have amended method claim 9 to depend from claim 1, and have canceled claims 10 and 11. In view of the amendment to claim 9, applicants request withdrawal of the restriction requirement and rejoinder of method claims 9 and 12 to 17.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

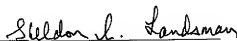
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CUSTOMER NUMBER

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